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3 May 1978

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: QDL Involvement in the Hanff Investigation

1. On 1 May 1978 the undersigned, accompanied by [ ] OGC, met with Deputy Assistant Attorney General, Robert Keuch, Mr. Philip Morris of the Criminal Division, Attorney General's Office, AUSA Harry Batchelder, Jr., AUSA Minna Schrag and AUSA Sheara Nussbaum (?).

2. I presented the facts upon which I based my conclusion that the Hanff matter appears to be a Polish/Soviet disinformation effort. Keuch and Morris were already acquainted with the data in the report furnished the OGC previously. Batchelder was quite adamant that his witnesses in Israel properly identified Hanff as the "Siegfried" of Czystochowa who committed war crimes. AUSA Nussbaum brought up the remarkable idea that perhaps the documents sent to the Zionist Organization of America were a Soviet disinformation effort, but that Hanff was a war criminal anyway. It was ultimately agreed that if Hanff spent 1939 to 1943 in Vilna as Hanff claimed and the anonymous denunciation claims, then he is not a war criminal. Batchelder felt it was unlikely Hanff's father would have moved to Vilna because it was the "Jerusalem of the North."

3. The basis why I have terminated examination was carefully explained to the representatives of the U.S. Attorney's Office, New York. Since this is no longer just a matter involving the Department of Justice, but a matter also involving the Agency, the FBI and the State Department, I declined to examine any further documents in this case unless there could be a definite showing that Hanff was the proper subject of Agency interest. I stated that we had an obligation to inform Justice timely of the results of our investigation into the background data available in our files but that we did not conduct any further examinations. At the insistence of Batchelder, we supplied the names of three question document examiners in private practice who could handle questioned document examinations if desired. I stated that I would not try to advise the

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U.S. Attorney's Office, New York, in any way as to what they should do, but I did state exactly what I would or would not do in this case as a representative of the Agency.

4. It is anticipated that the Attorney General's Office will have further discussions with Batchelder, etc. on the advisability of continuing on with this case and actually trying to seek an indictment. No further work on this subject is contemplated by OTS/QDL.

[ C/OTS/GAD/QDL ]

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